

Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens was founded by Ann and Max Meerkerk in 1961 when they became enchanted by Whidbey Island.

The Rothschild's Exbury Gardens in England, exotic species from Asia and our native *Rhododendron macrophyllum* were influencing factors in their creating a Pacific Northwest style woodland garden. The gardens grew to encompass ten acres for their rhododendron collection enveloped by a forty-three acre forest preserve.

Before Ann passed away in 1979, she bequeathed the Gardens to the Seattle Rhododendron Society to care for as a "...*peaceful woodland garden with an emphasis on rhododendrons & companion plants*" for display, education, research and propagation.

Meerkerk Gardens, in a mutual agreement with the SRS, became an independent not-for-profit in 2003. Our board of directors, staff and volunteers work together to maintain the gardens and raise the funds necessary to keep them thriving and open to the public.

Your Friends of Meerkerk membership, plant purchases, admission fees, grants, special events and donations provide the income vital to the health of this botanical treasure on Whidbey Island.

We thank you for your generosity in support of the Meerkerk Gardens' endeavors: beautifying the earth, providing a sanctuary for nature, teaching horticultural techniques and the importance of plants. These '*peaceful woodland gardens*' are a source of inspiration and solitude providing our community members a place to work, play and learn together.

Friends of Meerkerk Gardens

When you join the Friends of Meerkerk Gardens, you become a steward of the Gardens and Forest Preserve with others who share a passion for Meerkerk Gardens, rhododendrons and this oasis of serenity.

Your membership dues provide nearly 25% of the funds vital to caring for this botanical treasure.

You receive these member benefits:

◆ Sustaining Membership \$50

You and your household members receive free admission to the Gardens for year 'round enjoyment, newsletters & announcements and 2 guest passes.

Sustaining Members and greater receive 10% off the price of plants in the nursery as well.

◆ Supporting Membership \$100

NEW THIS YEAR: Receives the above plus 2 tickets to either the Billet-Deux Jazz Concert, Bluegrass or Mother's Day Concert. (Beginning 7/09)

◆ Benefactor Membership \$500

Support the Gardens at the \$500 level and receive a mature rhodie in addition to all of the above benefits.

◆ Gardening Angel Membership \$1,000

Receives the above plus an invitation to a Garden Special Event.

◆ Major Gift Donor \$10,000*

Receives the unique honor of having a new Fujioka hybrid rhododendron registered with the Royal Horticultural Society and the American Rhododendron Society in the name of your choice, plus benefits listed above. *this gift may be made over a two year period.

◆ Annual Pass \$30

Admission for two to the Gardens and Nature Trails for a year.

- ◆ Business Sponsorship information may be found on our webpage:
www.meerkerkgardens.org

Membership is on an annual basis
from the date of joining.

Volunteer!

Come Grow With Us!

Come and share your talents in gardening, propagation, plant cataloging, outdoor classroom tours, fundraising, special events, carpentry and more! Here are our programs:

◆ **Grateful Deadheaders** perform hands-on-horticulture in the Gardens and Greenhouses. Thursdays: Meet at 9. Work on projects until noon when we share a pot-luck lunch. Some volunteers like to come from Noon-4: that's ok too! Meet us in the Volunteer Cottage.

◆ **Wednesday Construction Team** builds and repairs structures in the Gardens, 9-noon, as needed. Phone Don: 360-678-5326

◆ **Botany Adventure Outdoor Classroom Field Trips** for children in grades K-5.

Contact:

Deborah Smith,
Education Coordinator
Phone: 360-222-3382
Email: deborah@meerkerkgardens.org

◆ **Independent Opportunities:** Work on your own schedule on a solo or team project in the Gardens or your home office.

Contact: Kristi O'Donnell, Director
Phone: 360-222-0121 or 360-678-1912
Email: meerkerk@whidbey.net



I'd like to volunteer.
Please phone me or email:

Name:

Phone:

Email:

FOM



**Yes, I'd like to be a
Friend of Meerkerk
Gardens!**

Name _____
(as you wish it to appear in our records)

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please circle your level of membership:

\$50 \$100

\$500 \$1000 \$10,000

This is a New membership

Renewal

Date: _____

Cash Check Credit Card

Please make your check payable to:
The Friends of Meerkerk Gardens
PO Box 154
Greenbank, WA 98253

I prefer just an annual pass for
two for \$30.

Scissors icon and vertical dashed line with text: Detach and mail

Meerkerk Gardens

2009-2010 Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 23rd 1-3pm
Swing Gypsy Jazz Concert on the Lawn with
Billet-Deux

Tickets \$10. per adult at the door or on-line.
Children 16 and under, free w/adult



Saturday, September 12th 10am – 5pm
Whidbey Island Bluegrass Festival
Open mic, jamming' & 4 bluegrass bands:
Deadwood Revival, Pearly Blue, The Wiretappers
and Swords into Plowshares

Tickets \$10. per adult at the door or on-line.
Children 16 and under, free w/ adult



Saturday, October 31st 9am-4pm
Autumn Rhodie Sale



Saturday, February 27th 2010
Dreams of Spring Garden Gala

At the Fireseed Hall, Langley
Email: Penny@meerkerkgardens.org



March 20th & 21st Celebrate Spring! Nursery
Opening Sale 9am-4pm



Daffodil Show ~ March - April



April 17th & 18th Noon-4pm
Meerkerk Magic Festival of Flowers & Fairies



Peak Spring Bloom April - May
Millions of Flowers opening daily!

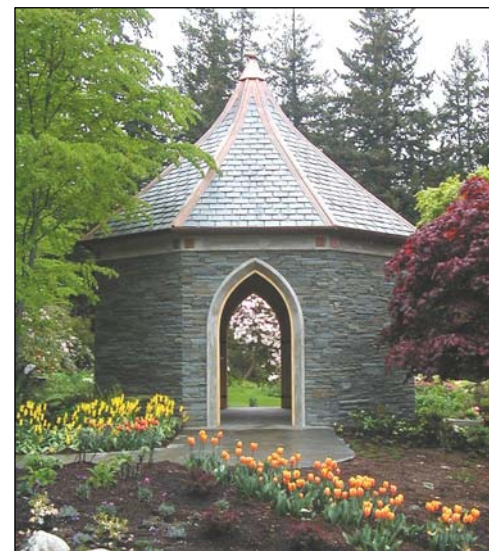


Sunday, May 9th Noon - 4:00
Mother's Day Harp Concert
With Harper Tasche



Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens

'Whidbey Island's peaceful woodland garden'



Admission to the Gardens
& Forest Preserve is
\$5 per adult during summer
Friends of Meerkerk members and
children 16 and under are admitted free

Summer Hours: 9am- dusk

Specialty Rhododendron Nursery open
Thursdays & Saturday in summer
or by appointment

Located in the Heart of Whidbey Island
Off State HWY 525 at Resort Road
3531 Meerkerk Lane
Greenbank, WA 98253
360.678.1912 or 360.222.0121
www.meerkerkgardens.org